



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture  
**NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE**  
**UTAH FIELD OFFICE**



PO Box 25007 Salt Lake City, UT 84125-0007 • (800)747-8522

Ag Statistics Hotline: (800) 727-9540 • [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov)

Contact: Richard A. Kestle  
(800) 747-8522

## Planting Intentions

**UTAH:** According to the Utah Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Utah farm operators, as of March 1, 2006 intend to plant more acres of corn and dry beans, but had planted fewer acres of winter wheat, and planned to plant fewer acres of spring wheat. Intentions for oats, and barley seeded and hay harvested are at the same level as last year. Corn acres planted are expected to be 60,000 up 5,000 acres from the previous year. All wheat intentions were estimated at 150,000 acres, 13,000 acres less than last year. Winter wheat planting is at 135,000 acres 7 percent less than the previous year. Spring wheat planting is expected to total 15,000 acres, down 17 percent from the previous year's level. If current growers intentions are realized, Utah farmers will plant 50,000 acres of oats, remaining the same as last year. Barley intentions are 40,000 acres, remaining the same as last year. Planting intentions for dry edible beans are 5,000 acres, an increase of 500 acres from last year. Harvesting intentions for all hay are 690,000 acres, remaining the same as last year.

**UNITED STATES:** Corn growers intend to plant 78.0 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2006, down 5 percent from 2005 and 4 percent below 2004. If realized, this will be the lowest corn acreage since 2001 when 75.7 million acres were planted for all purposes. Expected acreage is down from last year in most States as producers intend to switch to other less input intensive crops due to high fertilizer and fuel costs. Dry conditions also contributed to lower corn planting intentions in the southern Great Plains. **All wheat** planted area is expected to total 57.1 million acres, down slightly from 2005. If realized, this will be the lowest all wheat acreage since 1972. Winter wheat planted area for the 2006 crop is 41.4 million acres, up 2 percent from last year. Of the total, about 29.8 million acres are Hard Red Winter, 7.42 million acres are Soft Red Winter, and 4.22 million acres are White Winter. The 2006 **other spring wheat** planted acreage is expected to total 13.9 million, down 1 percent from 2005. Of the total, about 13.2 million acres are Hard Red Spring wheat. **Durum wheat** planted area is 1.83 million acres, down 34 percent from the previous year. If realized, this will be the lowest Durum wheat acreage since 1961. **Oats** acres seeded and to be seeded for the 2006 crop year are expected to total 4.32 million acres, up 2 percent from last year's planted area. **Barley** growers intend to plant 3.67 million acres for 2006, down 5 percent from last year. If realized, this will be the lowest barley planted acreage on record. Producers expect to harvest 61.5 million acres of all hay in 2006, down fractionally from 2005. **Dry Beans:** Prospective 2006 planting of dry beans in the U.S. totals 1.71 million acres, up 3 percent from last year and 26 percent above 2 years ago. The increase in planted acres can be contributed in part to higher demand for chickpeas and lower prices for crops farmers could plant instead of dry beans. Part of the increase in dry bean acreage is due to more chickpeas (Garbanzo beans) expected to be planted. A world wide shortage and good prices have influenced growers to increase planting intentions. Most States will wait until late April through June for dry bean planting.